

REMARKS

General Remarks

With this Amendment, Applicants add new Claims 18 and 19 and amend Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, and 16. No new matter is added. Therefore, Claims 1-19 are all the claims currently pending in the present application.

Claims 1-12 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Keiji et al., JP 05-181050 ("Keiji"). Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Keiji, in view of Miyazawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,942,417 ("Miyazawa"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, as discussed below.

Claims 1-12 and 14-17

With respect to the Examiner's §102(b) rejection of Claims 1-12 and 14-17, Applicants respectfully submit that Keiji fails to disclose or suggest all of the claimed limitations.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, and 16. Regarding Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, and 16, Applicants submit that Keiji fails to disclose or suggest identifying a position of a lens, as claimed, based on a change of reflectivity in one scan of moving a detection part within a width of a state indication part. In other words, the present invention, as recited in these claims, identifies a position of a lens in one stroke of the detection part, such that the time required to identify the position of the lens is small.

Furthermore, according to these claims, position identification requires only one detection part, so that the lens moving mechanism can be manufactured inexpensively without a plurality of detection devices.

In contrast, Keiji fails to disclose or suggest identifying a position of a lens based on a change of reflectivity in one scan of moving a detection part, as claimed. Additionally, Keiji describes two photo reflectors, 132a and 132b (Fig. 12) rather than the single detection part of the present invention.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 16, and 17. Regarding independent Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 16, and 17, Keiji fails to disclose or suggest a first area including a first reflecting part and a third reflecting part, each repeatedly provided; a second area including a first reflecting part and a second reflecting part, each repeatedly provided; and a third area including a second reflecting part and a third reflecting part, each repeatedly provided, as claimed.

The Examiner refers to sections A, B, and C, as illustrated in Fig. 3 and as described at least at paragraph 12, as disclosing the above-mentioned first, second, and third areas. As disclosed in Keiji, each of sections A and C comprise a single, highly-reflective silver or white material with a high reflectivity, and section B comprises a single black material with a low reflectivity. (*See* Keiji, Fig. 3 and paragraph 12). The descriptions of these sections A, B, and C fail to anticipate first, second, and third areas, as claimed. In other words, the first section, as claimed, includes alternating and repeating portions of a first reflecting part and a third reflecting part, and this is not anticipated by an area A, including only a single reflective part of high reflectivity. The second section, as claimed, includes alternating and repeating portions of a first reflecting part and a second reflecting part, and this is not anticipated by an area B, including only a single reflective part of low reflectivity. The third section, as claimed, includes alternating

and repeating portions of a second reflecting part and a third reflecting part, and this is not anticipated by an area C, including only a single reflective part of high reflectivity.

Further, Keiji also discusses Fig. 13, which, as described, illustrates sections A, B, and C, where section A includes a portion of hole 130a, section B includes a portion of hole 130a and a high reflection factor 131a, and section C includes a hole 130b and a high reflection factor 131b. (See Keiji, Fig. 13 and paragraph 65). Even assuming, arguendo, that the holes 130a and 130b could be similar to a reflecting part as claimed, there is no disclosure or suggestion in this description of first, second, and third areas, as claimed. As illustrated in Fig. 13 and as described, section A includes a portion of hole 130a, but fails to anticipate a first area including alternating and repeating portions of a first reflective part and a third reflective part, as claimed. Section B includes a portion of a hole 130a and a high reflection factor 131a, but fails to anticipate a second area including alternating and repeating portions of a first reflective part and a second reflective part, as claimed. Section C includes a hole 130b and a high reflection factor 131b, but fails to anticipate a third area including alternating and repeating portions of a second reflective part and a third reflective part, as claimed.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that Keiji fails to anticipate any of Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 16, and 17 and respectfully request that the §102(b) rejection of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-12, 14, and 15. Applicants submit that Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-12, 14, and 15 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on Claims 1, 4, and 8 and for the following additional reasons.

Claims 6 and 11. Regarding Claims 6 and 11, Keiji fails to disclose or suggest a count part which counts the number of times two or more reflecting ratios repeat when a detection part moves, as claimed.

The Examiner notes that paragraph 8 of Keiji describes a count means that “adds or subtracts the pulse signal that changes near the wide angle edge, where the reflecting part changes from first to second or the reverse, and near the tele angle edge where the reflecting part changes from second to third or the reverse.” (OA, p. 17). However, this description fails to anticipate a count part which counts the number of times two or more reflecting ratios repeat, as claimed. As described, the count means of Keiji counts pulses from a pulse signal, which is generated according to the “hand cut of the cam ring” (Keiji, paragraph 5), which fails to anticipate a count part which counts the number of times two or more reflecting ratios repeat, as claimed.

To the extent that the count means of Keiji counts pulses from the pulse signal, as described, “where the reflecting part changes from first to second or the reverse” or “where the reflecting part changes from second to third or the reverse,” as noted by the Examiner (OA, p. 17), this also fails to anticipate counting the number of times two or more ratios repeat, as claimed. As discussed above, regarding the limitations of Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 16, and 17, the highly reflective material of section A changes to the low reflective material of section B only once at the wide angle edge, and the low reflective material of section B only changes to the highly reflective material of section C only once at the tele angle edge. Therefore, even assuming arguendo that Keiji disclosed counting the changing of the reflective materials rather than the

pulses, as disclosed, this would still fail to anticipate counting the number of times two or more different reflecting ratios repeat, as claimed. As discussed with respect to claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 16, and 17, Keiji fails to disclose repeating reflective areas.

Claim 13

Regarding the §103(a) rejection of Claim 13 over Keiji in view of Miyazawa, Applicants submit that Claim 13 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependence on Claim 8, discussed above, and for the following additional reasons.

The cited combination of references fails to teach or suggest controlling a zoom motor such that a lower speed is used when the detection part changes from a first state to a second state and from a second state to a first state when a lens part is moving in a predetermined direction, as claimed. Miyazawa describes that high speed zooming is used in an automatic mode and that low speed zooming is used in a manual zoom mode. (Miyazawa, col. 5, ln. 62 to col. 6, ln. 16). However, this fails to disclose using a speed lower than a moving speed based on when a detection part detects changes between a first state and a second state. In contrast, according to Miyazawa, the determination of whether a high speed or a low speed is used is based solely on whether the camera is in an automatic mode or a manual zoom mode.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that Claim 13 is patentable over the claimed combination of references and respectfully request that the §103(a) rejection of Claim 13 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

New Claims

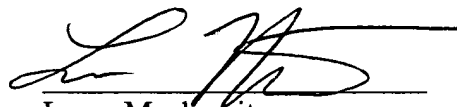
Applicants have added new Claims 18 and 19 in order to more fully cover various aspects of Applicants' invention as disclosed in the specification.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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